

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims**

Claims 1 - 15 (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A lighting apparatus, comprising:

a lamp;

an optical member with openings; and

locking portions, wherein

in cases where the light emitting plane of the optical member is parallel to the vertical direction, at least one set of an opening and a locking portion is provided on each of left and right sides with respect to the center of said optical member in the horizontal direction, both vertically above and below with respect to the center of gravity of said optical member,

in a vertically upper side of said optical member, said optical member is suspended by at least the two sets of said opening and said locking portion on left and right sides horizontally with respect to the center of said optical member such that only an upper edge of said opening abuts on an upper peripheral portion of said locking portion, and

said locking portion in a vertically lower side with respect to the center of gravity of said optical member penetrates said opening in a contactless manner.

17. (Previously Presented) An LCD apparatus comprising:  
the lighting apparatus according to claim 16; and  
an LCD panel.

18. (Currently Amended) A lighting apparatus, comprising:  
a lamp;  
an optical member with openings; and  
locking portions, wherein said lighting apparatus being capable of mounting a display unit, and wherein  
both in a basic position of said lighting apparatus and in a first stop position thereof that is taken when said lighting apparatus is rotated from said basic position in the plane of said display unit,

in cases where the display plane of said display unit is parallel to the vertical direction,  
said optical member is suspended by at least one set of an opening and a locking portion as they are engaged with one another in a vertically upper side with respect to the center of gravity of said optical member, and

in cases where the display plane of said display unit is parallel to the vertical direction, in a vertically lower side with respect to the center of gravity of said optical member, said locking portion penetrates said opening such that said optical member is not subjected to the stress caused by its own weight in the vertically upward direction, nor is it subjected to the stress caused by its contact in the vertically downward direction with said locking portion.

19. (Currently Amended) The lighting apparatus according to claim 18, wherein, in cases where the display plane of said display unit is parallel to the vertical direction both in said basic position of said lighting apparatus and in said first stop position where said lighting apparatus has been rotated in the plane of said display unit, said optical member is disposed in a position such that said opening and said locking portion do not come into contact with one another in a vertically lower side with respect to the center of gravity of said optical member.

20. (Previously Presented) The lighting apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said position such that said opening and said locking portion are not in contact with one another is a position where, when said lighting apparatus is used in an LCD display apparatus, said optical member is given a degree of spatial freedom within the range of the expansion of said optical member that is caused by thermal expansion and/or absorption of moisture in said optical member within the normal range of use of said LCD apparatus.

Claims 21-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) The lighting apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said locking portion in the upper side of the vertical direction of the optical member is in contact with said opening in a longitudinal direction in both said basic position and in said first stop position.

24. (Previously Presented) The lighting apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said first stop position is a position that is taken when said lighting apparatus is rotated by 90° or 180° from said basic position in the plane of said display unit.

25. (Previously Presented) The lighting apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the surface of said optical member is provided with an antistatic finish.

26. (Previously Presented) The lighting apparatus according to claim 18, wherein at least a corner or a side of said optical member is chamfered.

27. (Previously Presented) The LCD apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said display unit is an LCD panel and said lighting apparatus is a backlight apparatus, said LCD apparatus being comprised of said LCD panel and said backlight apparatus.

28. (Previously Presented) The LCD apparatus according to claim 27, further comprising:

a rotating mechanism for rotating said display unit.

29. (Currently Amended) A lighting apparatus, comprising:  
an optical member with a cutout portion; and  
a locking portion, wherein in cases where the light emitting plane of the optical member is parallel to the vertical direction, said lighting apparatus being capable of mounting a display unit, and wherein  
said cutout portion is formed in each side on the left and right sides horizontally of said optical member, along said side and forms upper and lower stepped portions with respect to an outer edge of said each side, and  
said optical member is suspended in parallel with a display surface of said display unit by causing an upper internal edge of the upper stepped portion of each cutout portion to abut on said locking portion.

Claim 30 (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) The lighting apparatus according to claim 29, wherein in cases where the light emitting place of the optical member is parallel to the vertical direction, said optical member is suspended by causing the periphery of said locking portion to abut on both sides of each cutout portion in the direction of the side ends, said cutout portion being formed in each side on the left and right horizontally of said optical member.

32. (Currently Amended) The lighting apparatus according to claim 29, wherein at least one of said cutout portions formed in both sides on the left and right sides horizontally of said

optical member is disposed in a vertically upper side of the vertical direction with respect to the center of gravity of said optical member.

33. (Currently Amended) The lighting apparatus according to claim ~~30~~ 29, wherein, in cases where the light emitting plane of the optical member is parallel to the vertical direction, both in a basic position of said lighting apparatus and in a first stop position that is taken when said lighting apparatus is rotated in the plane of said display unit, said optical member is supported by causing ~~an~~ the upper internal edge of the upper stepped portion of said cutout portion formed in and along each side on the left and right sides horizontally of said optical member in a vertically upper portion of said optical member to abut on said locking portion.

34. (Previously Presented) An LCD apparatus, comprising:  
the lighting apparatus according to claim 29; and  
an LCD panel as said display unit.